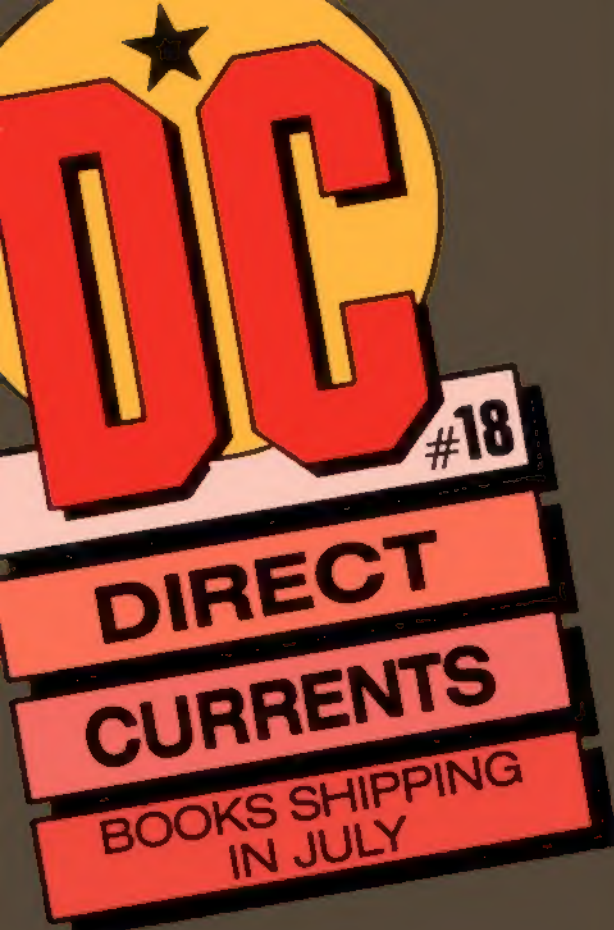




IN THIS ISSUE:

THE ART OF WALTER SIMONSON
trade paperback

DETECTIVE COMICS
mini-series-within-a-series

**THE GREATEST JOKER STORIES
EVER TOLD**
trade paperback

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two-issue Prestige series

KISSYFUR™
one-shot special
and more . . .

PLUS...

an interview with
Walter Simonson



Cover Of The Month
DETECTIVE COMICS #604

THE MAN OF 1,000 FACES... THE AVENGER IN *JUSTICE, INC.*

By the time you met him in the pages of *THE SHADOW*, Richard Benson was an old man still practicing his craft, living off past glories.

Now come back to 1948 when Richard Benson is in his prime as the renowned freelance crimefighter The Avenger, head of the small band of criminologists known as **JUSTICE, INC.**

The Avenger and his cohorts are enlisted by the C.I.A. to infiltrate the upper echelons of the emerging Third World nations and impersonate their leaders. But as is often the case in affairs of intrigue, the circumstances of

The Avenger's employ are not what they seem. Richard Benson discovers the truth . . . and vows to destroy the Agency and all that it stands for.

JUSTICE, INC. is a two-book Prestige Format mini-series, written by Andrew Helfer and painted by Kyle Baker, the critically acclaimed team that reintroduced us to The Avenger in *THE SHADOW*. Both issues are scheduled to ship this month—#1 in mid-July and #2 at the end of July. **JUSTICE, INC.** is labeled "Suggested for Mature Readers."

Justice is where you find it.

And you'll find it here in **JUSTICE, INC.**



ANNUALS & SPECIALS UPDATE

Summer is the season for a wealth of Annuals and Specials, and this month sees its own fair share of both.

In **DOCTOR FATE ANNUAL #1**, Dr. Fate faces his toughest challenge yet as Eric confronts the spirit of his dead mother in a dark tale written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Tom Sutton. The "Behind the Scenes" story reveals Nabu's struggle to merge his consciousness with Kent Nelson's body, written by DeMatteis, with art by Jim Fern and Mark McKenna. The painted cover is by Kent Williams.

GREEN LANTERN SPECIAL #2 pits GREEN LANTERN against the metallic menace of "The Invincible Foe," a bad guy

who makes all the other foes the Emerald Gladiator ever faced seem like a day at the beach. This 48-page special, which wraps up the storylines from the Green Lantern series in ACTION COMICS WEEKLY and paves the way for the debut of a new GREEN LANTERN series, is written by James Owsley and pencilled by Mark Bright.

SWAMP THING ANNUAL #5 depicts Abby, Chester, and Liz against the rampaging return of Brother Power the Geek . . . a being who has a secret connection to Swamp Thing, in a story written by Neil Gaiman, pencilled by Richard Piers Rayner and Mike Hoffman, and inked by Kim DeMulder. Also, the

"Behind the Scenes" feature tells secrets of the Green and the Parliament of Trees, by Gaiman, with art by Mike Mignola. The painted cover is by John Totleben. **SWAMP THING ANNUAL #5** is labeled "Suggested for Mature Readers."

And in **WONDER WOMAN ANNUAL #2** we take a look at what the name Wonder Woman means to different people and at how Diana is perceived by society, courtesy of writer George Pérez and featuring art by Jan Durssema, Colleen Doran, Barb Rausch, Trina Robbins, Carol Lay, Lee Marrs, Ramona Fradon, Cindy Martin, and Cara Sherman-Tereno, and a cover by Pérez.

FROM • THE EDITOR

Dear Peggy May:

I would like to ask a few questions. First, is there any way I can get a list of DC Comics' personal appearances (where, when, who, times)? Second, do you know the date of the comic book convention in San Diego this summer? Will you be sending any of your artists? Third, is there any way I can get some biography sheets on some or all of your artists? Fourth, is there a catalogue or something that tells about upcoming comic books due dates? Fifth, if I were to send some of my comic books to you, could they be signed and sent back if I were to enclose a self-addressed envelope (with stamps on it)? And last but not least, will there be any special celebration for Batman's 50th anniversary? Where, when, who, how, and time. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to read this. Please send me some answers (I would like to plan for San Diego).

A loyal fan,

R. House

4121 E. Mountain Sage Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85044

P.S. Will you be doing anything for the Batman movie?

Dear R.:

Whew! Your letter covers a lot of territory. Here goes:

- 1) We don't have a list of personal appearances. Keep checking your local newspaper's "Calendar" section as well as the *Comics Buyer's Guide* for ads and listings.
- 2) The San Diego Comic Con this year is from August 3-4. DC will be there in force. Among the scheduled attendees: Pat Bastienne, Karen Berger, Bruce Bristow, Tammy Brown, Mike Carlin, Terri Cunningham, Neil Gaiman, Mike Gold, Archie Goodwin, Bob Greenberger, Dan Jurgens, Barbara Kesel, Karl Kesel, Paul Levitz, Barbara Lyons, Elliot Maggin, Peggy May (me!), George Pérez, John Pope, Dan Raspler, Julie Schwartz, Ken Steacy, Art Thibert, Mark Waid, Bob Wayne, and Marv Wolfman.

DC will also be at several other conventions this summer:

Chicago Comicon, June 30-July 2
Jim Aparo, Brian Augustyn, Pat Bastienne, Karen Berger, Norm Breyfogle, Bruce Bristow, Pat Broderick, Tammy Brown, Richard Bruning, Mike Carlin, Denys Cowan, Terri Cunningham, Mike Gold, Archie Goodwin, Bob Greenberger, Greg Guler, Andrew Helfer, Paul Levitz, William Messner-Loebs, Peggy May (me!), Dan Mishkin, Steve Mitchell, Denny O'Neil, John Ostrander, Jonathan Peterson, John Pope, Bob Rozakis, Ken Steacy, Tim Truman, Chas Truog, Bob Wayne,

Marv Wolfman, Kim Yale, and Art Young

Atlanta Fantasy Fair, July 21-23
Tammy Brown, Denny O'Neil, Jerry Ordway, James Owsley, Jonathan Peterson

Dallas Fantasy Fair, July 14-16
Brian Augustyn, Steve Erwin, Kerry Gammill, Gerard Jones, Mike Mignola, Mike Parobeck, Lewis Shiner, Bob Wayne

- 3) Unfortunately, we don't provide bio sheets. Be sure to read bios in letter columns and on the text pages and/or covers of our trade paperbacks.
- 4) **DIRECT CURRENTS** is your catalogue for upcoming books. We hope to get the checklist section back onto a weekly listing soon.
- 5) We don't recommend sending books in for signatures. There's too much possibility of the books being lost or damaged in transit—and we can't accept responsibility for that. Just hold on to the books until you can meet the pros at a convention or personal appearance.
- 6) Our biggest celebration of Batman's 50th is the upcoming Warner Bros. "Batman" feature film. We talked about our comic book adaptation of the film in last month's **DIRECT CURRENTS**. There will probably be a special celebration in comic book stores sometime this fall. But right now, we're all geared up for the film. It's gonna be great.

See ya, *Peggy*

Paul Kupperberg, Writer
Peggy May, Editor

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THE JOKER AND THE ART OF WALT SIMONSON

IN TRADE PAPERBACK EDITIONS

Earlier this year, DC was proud to present a collection of **THE GREATEST JOKER STORIES EVER TOLD**, the greatest confrontations between **THE BATMAN** and **THE JOKER** in a 288-page hardcover collection.

Now DC Comics proudly represents these 19 classic tales of mayhem in **THE GREATEST JOKER STORIES EVER TOLD Trade Paperback Edition**, featuring all the same great stories in a softcover package.

From **THE JOKER'S** first appearance by writer Bill Finger and artist Bob Kane and Jerry Robinson in **BATMAN** #1, through appearances in the 1980s in tales by Neal Adams, Jim Aparo, Steve Englehart, Dick Giordano, Carmine Infantino, Sheldon Moldoff, Denny O'Neil, Marshall Rogers, Walter Simonson, Dick Sprang, Len Wein, and others, his story is told here. **THE GREATEST JOKER STO-**

RIES EVER TOLD Trade Paperback Edition features a new painted cover by Brian Bolland.

Also in the trade paperback format is an all-new collection showcasing the artistic talent of Walter Simonson. **THE ART OF WALTER SIMONSON Trade Paperback Edition** features 208 pages of the very best of this unique artist's work for DC Comics.

Included are Batman ("The Cape and Cowl Deathtrap" from **DETECTIVE COMICS** #450), Doctor Fate (from **FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL** #9), the Metal Men (from **METAL MEN** #45-49), Captain Fear (from **UNKNOWN SOLDIER** #254-256), Hercules (from **HERCULES UNBOUND** #11-12), a pair of science fiction war classics (from **STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES** #170 and #180), as well as previously unpublished art, and commentary on the stories by the artist himself.

Howard Chaykin provides an introduction to the artist and his work. The new cover is by Simonson.

THE GREATEST JOKER STORIES EVER TOLD and **THE ART OF WALTER SIMONSON**... two trade paperback editions featuring some of the very best that DC Comics has to offer.



BATMAN VERSUS CLAYFACES I THROUGH IV

The Year of the Batman continues, and there's lots of excitement in store to help celebrate the Darknight Detective's 50th Anniversary.

Beginning this month, in the pages of **DETECTIVE COMICS** #604, is a special four-part miniseries-within-a-series, "The Mudpack," pitting Batman against four of his deadliest foes... Clayface. Or, to be more accurate, all four incarnations of this most dangerous villain.

The story begins in **DETEC-**

TIVE COMICS #604 as Batman fights the evil of Clayface III... unaware that the malleable malefactor is now teamed up with the three other Clayfaces. It continues in **DETECTIVE COMICS** #605 through #607, and all four issues will be published bi-weekly for the duration of "The Mudpack" saga.

Also featured in **DETECTIVE COMICS** #604 is a special bound-in **BATMAN** mini-poster, painted by Norm Breyfogle. And, or course, you won't want

to miss this month's **SECRET ORIGINS** #44, which features the origins of all four of the villains who have gone under the name Clayface.

"The Mudpack" is written by Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. Breyfogle also provides all four covers.

Don't miss Batman in his struggles against the four Clayfaces... it may be the last struggle he ever faces.

CUDDLE UP TO KISSYFUR™

For those of you who are young at heart—or who have young friends who would enjoy a really good "children's" comic—we bring you **KISSYFUR™** #1, a one-shot, 48-page special. Based on the NBC-TV Saturday morning animated series, **KISSYFUR™** #1 follows the cuddly bear from the circus to the swamps in the little guy's most incredible adventures to date. The issue is written and illustrated by Phil Mendez. Cover by Mendez.

This is your chance to pick up

a fun, simply-rendered comic that will appeal to all the youngsters you know.



BOOKS SHIPPING IN JULY

ACTION COMICS #644

Earth's not big enough for *two* Supermen. The Man of Steel goes head to head with Matrix in a contest to see which of them will remain here . . . and which will be gone forever. Story and pencils by George Pérez, script by Roger Stern, and inks by Brett Breeding. Cover by Pérez. \$1.75



ACTION COMICS #644

ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS™ #9

The invincible Onyx must save Timoth's tail after the trusting centaur gets involved in Waterdeep's criminal underground. First of a four-parter. Written by Jeff Grubb, with art and cover by Jan Duursema. (*New Format*) \$1.50

THE ART OF WALTER SIMONSON Trade Paperback

The work of artist Walter Simonson is collected in this 208-page trade paperback edition, featuring stories starring Batman, Doctor Fate, the Metal Men, Captain Fear, and Hercules, as well as two science fiction war stories, and a portfolio of previously unpublished Simonson art. Introduction by Howard Chaykin. Simonson provides commentary on the stories included. New cover by Simonson. \$19.95

BATMAN #438

Part 3 of the 4-part "Batman: Year Three": Batman embarks on a violent hunt through Gotham's underworld, while Nightwing must face his own past as the man who killed his parents begins a new reign of terror. Written by Marv Wolfman, with art by Pat Broderick and John Beatty. Cover by Pérez. \$1.00

CAPTAIN ATOM #32

Captain Atom's son Randy is in danger, and only Cap can save him—but Captain Atom has lost his powers. Written by Cary Bates and Greg Weisman, with art by Rafael Kayanan and Romeo Tanghal. \$1.00

CHECKMATE #20

Part 1 of the 5-part "Knight Wars": A Knight in Moscow tracks down a Soviet mole in the U.S. State Department . . . and another makes a surprising return from the field. Written by Paul Kupperberg, with art by Steve Erwin and Al Vey. (*New Format*) \$1.50

COPS™ #15

This is it . . . the all-out battle between the COPS and the crooks for control of Empire City. Final issue. Written by Doug Moench, with pencils and cover by Alan Kupperberg. \$1.00

DETECTIVE COMICS #603

The Tulpa story concludes as Batman is forced to face The Demon, Etrigan . . . and confronts a mirror image of himself. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Norm Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. Cover by Breyfogle.

DETECTIVE COMICS #604

Part 1 of the 4-part "The Mudpack": Published bi-weekly for the duration of this mini-series-within-a-series as the Darknight Detective battles Clayface III . . . unaware that the Man of Clay is now teamed up with the three other Clayfaces. Also featured is a special bound-in Batman mini-poster, painted by Norm Breyfogle. Written by Alan Grant, with art by Breyfogle and Steve Mitchell. Cover by Breyfogle. \$1.00

DOC SAVAGE #12

Part 2 of the 4-part "Sunlight Rising": While Doc and his crew are held prisoner in Doc's own Fortress, John Sunlight pursues his plan to "kidnap" the sun. Written by Mike W. Barr, with art by Rod Whigham and Steve Montano. Cover by Andy Kubert. (*Deluxe Format*) \$1.75



DOC SAVAGE #12

DR. FATE #9

Dr. Fate and Deadman must stop the elemental madness of Joachim Hesse. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art and cover by Shawn McManus. (*New Format*) \$1.50

DR. FATE ANNUAL #1

It's an emotional test for Dr. Fate as Eric faces the ghostly return of his dead mother. Written by J.M. DeMatteis, with art by Tom Sutton. Also, the untold story of Nabu's struggle to merge his consciousness with Kent Nelson's body, written by DeMatteis, with art by Jim Fern and Mark McKenna. Painted cover by Kent Williams. (*New Format*) \$2.95

DRAGONLANCE™ 11

Part 3 of a 4-part story: The history of Krynn, a world forever changed many years ago, unfolds as Tanis and Horak prepare for a battle to the death with a friend and a brother in the Arena of Blood. Written by Dan Mishkin, with art by Dave Simons, Ron Randall, and Randy Elliott. Cover by Randall. (*New Format*) \$1.50

EL DIABLO #2

The drug war in Dos Rios escalates and El Diablo takes the fight straight to crime lord Benny Contreras. Written by Gerard Jones, with art and cover by Mike Parobeck and John Nyberg. (*New Format*) \$1.50

FIRESTORM #89

The new Firestorm is forced into an explosive confrontation with Firehawk that sidetracks him from his furious rampage against Vandermeer Steel. Written by John Ostrander, with art and cover by Tom Mandrake. \$1.00

FLASH #30

Flash is the target of an unknown assassin . . . while in Rome, Wally's mother is the target of a dashing gentleman. And: Wally contemplates a move to Keystone City, home of the missing original Flash. Written by William Messner-Loebs, with art and cover by Greg LaRocque and Larry Mahlstedt. \$1.00

GAMMARAUDERS™ #7

(of a 12-issue maxi-series)

Can Jok regain control of the Sword That Was Broken in time to help save his fellow 'Borg handlers? Written by Peter Gillis, with art by George Purcell and Dave Cooper. Cover by Martin King and Cooper. (*New Format*) \$2.00

THE GREATEST JOKER STORIES EVER TOLD Trade Paperback

The greatest confrontations between Batman and his arch foe, The Joker, is represented in a new 288-page trade paperback edition, featuring the work of Neal Adams, Jim Aparo, Steve Englehart, Bill Finger, Dick Giordano, Bob Haney, Carmine Infantino, Bob Kane, Sheldon Moldoff, Denny O'Neil, Jerry Robinson, Marshall Rogers,

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JULY

Walter Simonson, Dick Sprang, and Len Wein. New painted cover by Brian Bolland. \$14.95

☐ GREEN ARROW #22

Part 3 of the 4-part "Blood of the Dragon": Published bi-weekly for the duration of this mini-series-within-a-series. To save her baby's life, Shado must kill . . . will Green Arrow help her? Written by Mike Grell, with art by Dan Jurgens, Dick Giordano, and Frank McLaughlin. Cover by Jurgens and Giordano. (Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format) \$1.25

☐ GREEN ARROW #23

Part 3 of the 4-part "Blood of the Dragon": Published bi-weekly for the duration of this mini-series-within-a-series. Green Arrow and Shado risk an all-out assault on the Yakuza headquarters in Tokyo to rescue her child. Written by Mike Grell, with art by Dan Jurgens, Dick Giordano, and Frank McLaughlin. Cover by Jurgens and Giordano. (Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.) \$1.25

☐ GREEN LANTERN SPECIAL #2

Green Lantern has faced some tough foes in the past, but *nothing* to compare with the metallic menace of "The Invincible Foe." This 48-page special wraps up the storylines from ACTION COMICS WEEKLY and paves the way for the debut of a new Green Lantern series. Written by James Owsley and pencilled by Mark Bright. \$1.50

☐ HAWK & DOVE #4

The Untouchables . . . they only look like 1930s gangsters, but they're pure, current-day evil, a gang that's literally *untouchable*. Written by Barbara and Karl Kesel, with art by Greg Guler and Scott Hanna. Cover by Guler and Karl Kesel. \$1.00

☐ HAWKWORLD #2

(of a 3-book mini-series)

Katar Hol is dragged deeper into the Thanagarian rebellion as he is convicted of treason and sentenced to a remote island where he learns more about life . . . and the *true* history of Thanagar. Written and pencilled by Timothy Truman and inked by Alcatena. Painted cover by Truman. (Prestige Format) \$3.95

☐ HAYWIRE #13

The story of Haywire comes to its startling climax as his true history is revealed. Final issue. Written by Michael Fleisher, with art and cover by Vince Giarano. (Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.) \$1.50

☐ HELLBLAZER #22

The intensity of events is too much for John Constantine. Can the women in his life save the day in the dramatic conclusion to "The Fear Machine" cycle? Written by Jamie Delano, with art by Mark Buckingham and Alfredo Alcala. Painted cover

by Dave McKean. (Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.) \$1.50

☐ HERO HOTLINE #6

(of a 6-issue mini-series)

A murderer is revealed . . . Private Eye cracks a safe . . . Fred goes on TV . . . and a whole lot more in the wild, concluding issue of HERO HOTLINE. Written by Bob Rozakis, with art by Stephen DeStefano and Kurt Schaffenberger. Cover by DeStefano and Karl Kesel. (New Format) \$1.75

☐ HUNTRESS #6

The Huntress finds out the secret of the family fortune and goes face to face with her father's murderer. Written by Joey Cavalieri, with art and cover by Joe Staton and Bob Smith. \$1.00

☐ JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA #30

The punk thief who stole Big Barda's car and Mega-Rod comes to regret that act as he tangles with Barda, Fire, Mister Miracle, and The Huntress. Written by Keith Giffen and J.M. DeMatteis, and inked by Joe Rubinstein. Cover by Kevin Maguire. \$1.00

☐ JUSTICE, INC. #1

(of a 2-book mini-series)

You met him in the pages of The Shadow; now come back to the heyday of The Avenger. It's 1948 and Richard Benson, The Avenger, and his crimefighting group, Justice, Inc., are enlisted by the Agency to impersonate the leaders of Third World Nations . . . only to wind up vowing to destroy the organization that hired him. Written by Andrew Helfer, with painted art and cover by Kyle Baker. (Suggested for Mature Readers. Prestige Format.) \$3.95

☐ JUSTICE, INC. #2

(of a 2 book mini-series)

Richard Benson, The Avenger, goes face to face with his former allies in The Agency to uncover the facts behind their "Betrayal" in the dramatic conclusion to this tale. The end of this worldwide manhunt will surprise you . . . and forever change the legend of Justice, Inc. and The Avenger. Written by Andrew Helfer, with painted art and cover by Kyle Baker. (Suggested for Mature Readers. Prestige Format.) \$3.95

☐ KISSYFUR™ #1

NBC-TV's Saturday morning animated star KISSYFUR™ comes to DC Comics with his very own one-shot, 48-page special. He ventures from the circus to the swamps in this all-new adventure. Written and illustrated by Phil Mendez. Cover by Mendez. \$2.00

☐ MANHUNTER #17

Work brings the Manhunter to Gotham City . . . where Mark Shaw learns Batman's opinion of ex-con bounty hunters. Written by Kim Yale, with art by Grant Miehm and John Statema. Cover by Miehm and Dick Giordano. \$1.00

☐ MISTER MIRACLE #8

Blue Beetle and Booster Gold are still visiting the Frees . . . and to top it off, the Professor Ivo gang is along for the trip. Plotted by J.M. DeMatteis, written by Len Wein, with art by Joe Phillips and Rick Magyar. Cover by Phillips. \$1.00

☐ NEW GODS #7

Orion makes an incognito pilgrimage into the depths of Armaghettio in his search for his birthright . . . only to find he has more in common with the dregs of Apokolips than he can stand. Written by Mark Evanier, with art by Paris Cullins and Will Blyberg. Cover pencilled by Cullins. (New Format) \$1.50

☐ THE NEW TITANS #58

Wildebeest revealed? Danny Chase missing? And, given what he's going through in the current Batman: Year Three series running in BATMAN, will Dick Grayson continue his career as Nightwing? Written by Marv Wolfman and George Pérez, with art by Tom Grummett and Bob McLeod. Cover by Pérez. (Deluxe Format) \$1.75



THE NEW TITANS #58

☐ PHANTOM #6

Diana's African education continues as she accompanies The Phantom to the site of a new gold rush where greed and murder rule. Written by Mark Verheiden, with art and cover by Luke McDonnell. (New Format) \$1.50

☐ THE QUESTION #29

The Question and Lady Shiva face off as the recovering Myra resorts to some unorthodox methods to prevent Hub City from self-destructing. Written by Dennis O'Neil, with art and cover by Denys Cowan and Malcolm Jones III. (Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.) \$1.75

BOOKS SHIPPING IN JULY

SECRET ORIGINS #44

Beginning this month in the pages of DETECTIVE COMICS, the Darknight Detective will battle the combined forces of the four Clayfaces. You can learn the origins of all four of these malleable malefactors here. "Clayface I and Clayface IV" are by Mike W. Barr, Keith Giffen, and Ty Templeton. "Clayface II" is by Dan Raspler and Bernie Mireault. And "Clayface III" is by Len Wein, Tom Grummett, and Gary Martin. Cover by Kevin Nowlan. \$1.50



SECRET ORIGINS #44

SKREEMER #4

(of a 6-issue mini-series)

This issue presents the history of Skreemer, from the height of his power to the first death rattles of his vast criminal empire . . . an empire he must now resurrect. Written by Pete Milligan, with art by Brett Ewins and Steve Dillon. Cover by Ewins. (Suggested for Mature Readers. Deluxe Format.) \$2.00

SPECTRE #29

Part 6 of the 6-part "Ghosts in the Machine": The Spectre saves the world . . . and a new "hero" is born in the process. Written by Doug Moench, with art by Tom Artis and Tim Gula. (New Format) \$1.50

SUICIDE SQUAD #32

A U.S. diplomat is about to be executed in the Middle East. Can the Squad save him without blowing their cover? Also, the secret behind Duchess unfolds. Written by John Ostrander and Kim Yale, with art by Grant Miehm and K.S. Wilson. Cover by Karl Kesel. 1.00

SUPERMAN #35

What's going on in the mind of the sedated Brainiac? It's something far deadlier than any menace the Man of Steel has ever faced. Written by Jerry Ordway, with

art by Kerry Gammill, Curt Swan, and Dennis Janke. Cover by Gammill and Janke. \$.75



SUPERMAN #35

SWAMP THING ANNUAL #5

Can Abby prevent the rampaging return of Brother Power the Geek? And will she uncover his connection to Swamp Thing? Written by Neil Gaiman and pencilled by Richard Piers Rayner and Mike Hoffman. Inked by Kim DeMulder. Also, some secrets of the Green and the Parliament of Trees are revealed with a little help from the Floronic Man, by Gaiman, with art by Mike Mignola. Painted cover by John

Totleben. (Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.) \$2.95

UNKNOWN SOLDIER #10

(of a 12-issue mini-series)

A Korean industrialist has been kidnapped by the C.I.A. and now it's up to the Soldier to rescue him from "The Dragon Lady's Secret Dinner." Written by James Owsley and pencilled by Phil Gascoine. Cover by Gascoine. (Suggested for Mature Readers. New Format.) \$1.75

WONDER WOMAN #34

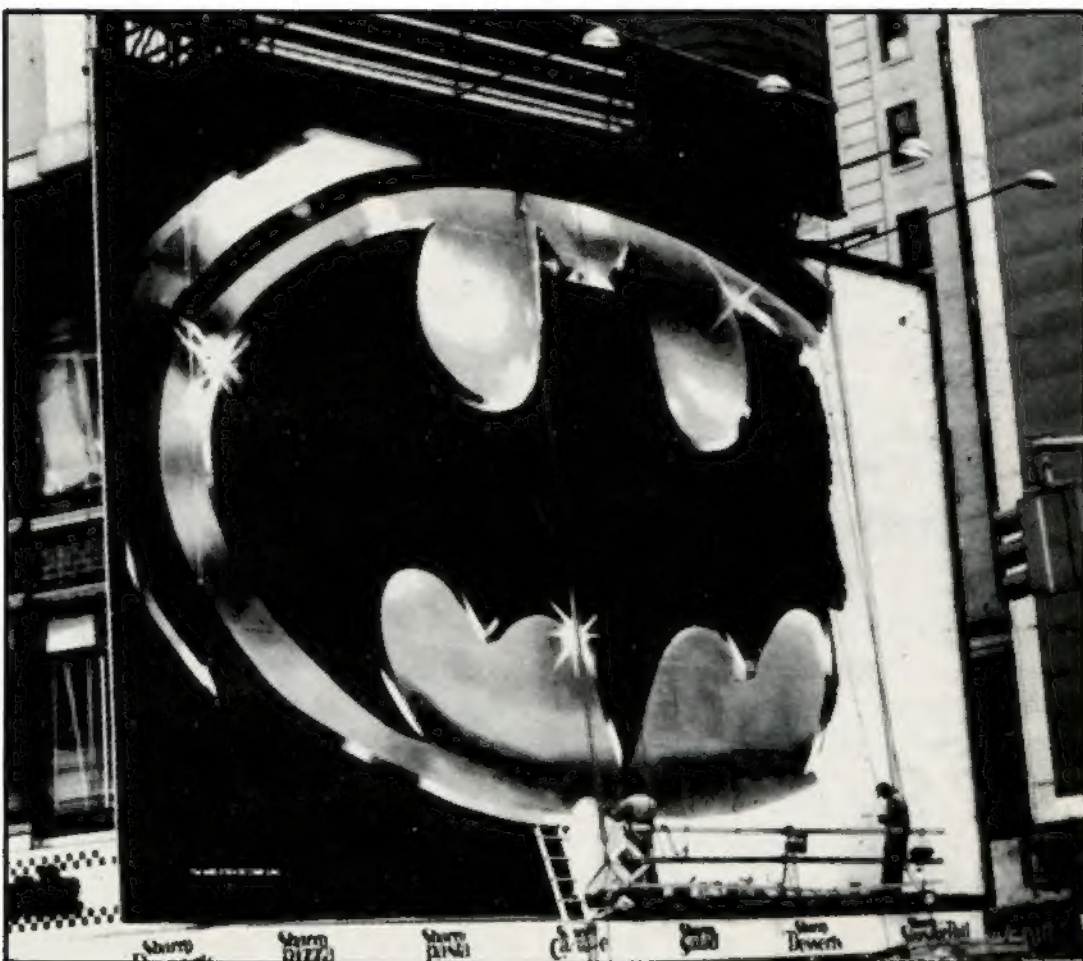
The fate of the Egyptian Amazons, the Cheetah, Hermes, and the Girdle of Gaea all rests with Wonder Woman and the Tournament of the Crown. Written by George Pérez, with art by Chris Marrinan and Will Blyberg. Cover by Marrinan and Pérez. \$1.00

WONDER WOMAN ANNUAL #2

What does the name Wonder Woman mean to different people? A look at how Diana is perceived by society, courtesy of writer George Pérez and artists Jan Duursema, Colleen Doran, Barb Rausch, Trina Robbins, Carol Lay, Lee Marrs, Ramona Fradon, Cindy Martin, and Cara Sherman-Tereno. Cover by Pérez. \$2.00

YOUNG ALL-STARS #29

Part 2 of the 3-part "The Sons of the Dawn": "Iron" Munro faces his father, Hugo Danner, and the super-race he has spawned. Written by Roy and Dann Thomas, with art and cover by Lou Manna and Bob Downs. (New Format) \$1.75



DC Comics' own Bové took this shot of the "Batman" movie billboard as it was being painted in New York City's Times Square. Thanks, Steve.

people at WORK

WALTER SIMONSON

Walter Simonson's work is recognized as fresh and original, his impact on comic books has been both immediate and long standing.

DC Comics celebrates his contribution this month with the publication of the trade paperback **THE ART OF WALTER SIMONSON**.

"I was born September 2, 1946, in Knoxville, Tennessee," Walt told us. "We lived there for two and a half years after I was born and then my dad got a promotion and was moved to Washington, D.C. So the family picked up and moved to Maryland, which is where my folks have remained ever since. My father worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I have a younger brother, who wasn't a comics fanatic like I was. Well, I was actually a Carl Barks fanatic. I didn't know that at the time, because I didn't know who Carl Barks was, but I liked his work on **DONALD DUCK**."

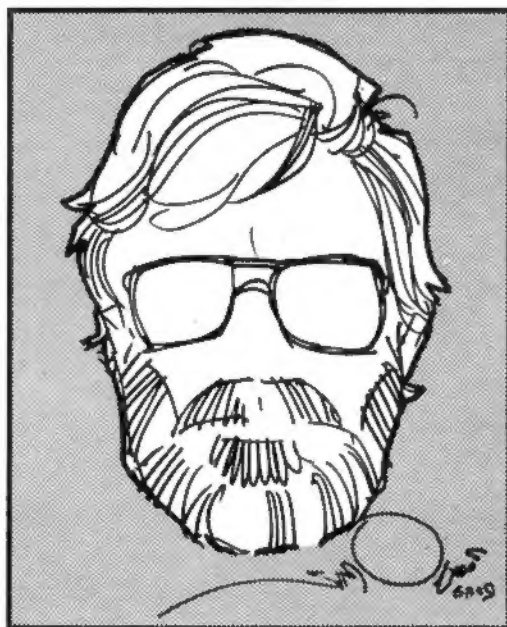
Walt remembers being an avid reader of comics, at least in his youth. "I read some **BATMAN**, **SUPERMAN**, and **ADAM STRANGE**, who came a little later on. But in the fifties, most of what I read was Walt Disney's **COMICS AND STORIES**, **LITTLE LULU**, **LITTLE IODINE**, some of the TV stuff like **CHEYENNE**, a few movie adaptations and, I must point out, **THE LAND UNKNOWN** by Alex Toth, one of my early favorite jobs.

"But then I got into high school and, you know, I was embarrassed to be seen looking at the comics rack by girls. I was embarrassed to be seen by girls in any case, whether it was with comics or not. I was a social retard. I wasn't reading as much for a while and then when I went to college . . . well, I read **MAGNUS ROBOT FIGHTER**, which was right before college. I liked Russ Manning's work. I actually had a drawing printed in an early **MAGNUS**, on a fan page called **Robo Gallery**, in 1964, I think. That's the first printed Simonson drawing, at least in comics, for those of you who are eager to collect 'em all.

"When I was in college, I discovered Marvel Comics. This was '64 or '65 . . . I was about a year or two behind everybody else. Still retarded, I guess. Marvel had already moved into high gear just about the time I discovered them. So I was a big Marvel reader then, for about four years. When I graduated from college, I had about a year off and then I ended up going back to school to study art. I went back to a different college, the Rhode Island School of Design, in Providence.

"While I was there, I still read a lot of comics but I found I was much more interested in actually doing them than in reading them. So I did comic book work, just for myself, but ultimately for a degree project. That was **Star Slammers**, which I eventually resurrected in a graphic novel for Marvel.

"I graduated from RISD in 1972 and came to New York in August of 1972 with my **Star Slammers** portfolio. I had a friend who was



working for DC then, a writer named Jerry Boudreau, and he arranged for me to talk to Archie Goodwin, who was an editor at DC at the time.

"A lot of young guys had gone to work for DC in the early 1970s, because DC was doing a lot of nifty comics. That's why I went there looking for work, actually, because they were putting out a lot of pretty exciting stuff at a time when it seemed, at least to me personally, that Marvel was stagnating. There was just a lot of nifty product coming out of DC.

"So I went up there and, after meeting with Archie, I went to DC's coffee room where Howard Chaykin, Michael Kaluta, Berni Wrightson, and maybe Alan Weiss, were all sitting together. I ended up introducing myself, sitting down, and we shot the breeze for a bit. They looked at my stuff and Michael asked if he could show my book to Jack Adler, who was the assistant production manager at the time, and I said, hey, what the heck. Turns out Jack was sitting at the table right behind us.

"So Jack took a look at it and he really liked it and he said, 'Let me show this to Carmine (Infantino)', who was the Editorial Director, or maybe he was Publisher by that time. I said, 'Hey, no problem,' and he went off. I sat there nervously and about five minutes later he came back and said 'Carmine wants to see you, let's go.'

"I would up spending about ten minutes with Carmine, talking about comics. Carmine called three of the editors in and essentially forced all of them to give me jobs. It was great. Julie Schwartz, Joe Orlando, and Archie Goodwin all came in and I walked out of Carmine's office with a job from each of them.

"The first thing I did was a job for Joe Orlando, for **WEIRD WAR TALES** #10, called "Cyrano's Army," written by a young talent named Len Wein. The scary part of that is that DC just had the foresight and good taste to reprint that job in a recent **SGT. ROCK SPECIAL**," Walt says with a laugh. "This time they got the coloring right, which was messed up the first time out. Eighteen years later it was corrected. All is forgiven. DC can come home now.

"Archie liked my stuff enough to give me more work and, ultimately, I did a three-page story on the Alamo that Don Krarr wrote. I found out from Archie, but not until many years later, that that job was what persuaded him to offer me **MANHUNTER**, which was the feature he was putting together at the time for **DETECTIVE COMICS**.

"**MANHUNTER** is what really made my professional reputation. The work Archie and I did on that strip was really some of the best work I did, and really some of the best combination of writing and art that I've had a hand in in doing comics. That ran for a year, bi-monthly, and by the time it was over, finding work really wasn't a problem. I was very fortunate."

Along with some stories for Gold Key Comics' **TWILIGHT ZONE**, Walt did other work for DC, including several issues of **HERCULES UNBOUND**. "HERCULES was the first job I ever did that I didn't actually pencil and ink myself. Wally Wood was inking it, over my layouts. I really took the job just to work with Woody. Of course, he quit after two issues, but it was a treat working with him while it lasted."

Much of the work reprinted in **THE ART OF WALTER SIMONSON** came from that period of Walt's work at DC. "There were about four years there that this book's going to cover, maybe five, of the work I did for DC during that time. Then I shifted over to Marvel and did a lot of stuff for them, and now I'm coming back to DC and doing a **SUPERMAN ANNUAL** which I'm actually looking forward to doing, and the oddball cover here and there. So there you go."

Walt is something of a double threat talent in that he both writes and draws a large part of his work. "I didn't begin writing, I guess, for about the first eight years. I began in '72, and I think the first writing I did was about '79 or '80, and so I really thought of myself as an artist first and a writer second. And as an artist, that meant storytelling.

"Now I don't think of myself so much as either a writer or an artist, in separate categories. But I kind of dabble—a little of this, a little of that. I'm hoping to become a professional one of these days."

When asked what's next on Walt's agenda, the artist said, "The one thing I would really like to move into is color work. I've done just a little bit here and there and now I want to do more painting kind of stuff. I have no idea what it'd look like. I mean, I'm very comfortable with line, I've done line all my life, I'd like to take a crack at doing more in the way of form with color as opposed to form with line."

It's obvious when talking to him that Walt really enjoys the work he does. "It's been a lot of fun. When I first got into comics, I really thought I'd be doing them maybe three or four years. I sort of had the feeling that by then I would probably have learned all I really could learn from comics. Well, hey, that youthful hubris, you know?

"And now, with all the different formats that are available, there's really a lot more you can do. It's almost frightening, the range of possibilities is so huge. 'Oh, no, where do I start?' That's one of the things that makes comics so exciting, all those possibilities.

"The way things are in comics these days, there's really too much interesting stuff to do. I can't do it all. If I could only be like, what's her name? Duo Damsel? Triplicate Girl? I'd like to be like her. There's too much good stuff left to be done and I don't have time to do it all."

If his fans are lucky, Walt will find the time for at least *some* of that good stuff and, if past performance is any indication, it will be work worth waiting for.

METAL MEN

From the archives of the DC Comics Library, we bring you the cover of METAL MEN #45 (1976), the first Simonson artwork on the series.

